

My comments follow the bullets in PURPLE. Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

- **Contribution Refunds:** Contribution refunds now may be issued via ACH transfer or committee check in addition to bank or certified checks. Refunds must be documented and are considered to be made on the date on which the funds cleared the committee account (not the date the check or transfer was issued by the campaign) (Rules 5-07(b) and 5-07(c)). I am very much in favor of this proposal. The expense of not only money, but time to go to the bank for certified checks is becoming more and more unfavorable. Especially when you have to purchase an \$8 check (that's how much our bank charges per check) for a \$10 refund. Just not worth it, in my opinion.
- **Withholding of Public Funds for Contributions in Violation of the Law:** The Board may withhold an amount equal to the amount of any contributions made, solicited, or otherwise received in violation of the law, including contributions from a prohibited source and over-the-limit contributions (for which only the over-the-limit portion would be withheld), pending refund to the contributor or disgorgement to the Public Fund (Rule 7-06). Previously, the Board's policy was to deem a candidate ineligible to receive a pre-election public funds payment if the candidate had received and failed to refund any prohibited or over-the-limit contributions. I don't think there's enough information presented here for full comment on this proposal. Given that we can't control contributions given electronically/credit card in the middle of the night on a weekend before a filing deadline, it would be detrimental to most committees to be held responsible and in effect "punished" for such things beyond our control like that situation. Unless there's some formula for how many, the overall amount or the egregiousness of the amount(s) in question, I would not be in favor of this proposal.
- **Declaration of Office Sought:** Candidates will now be required to declare an office sought on their Filer Registration or Certification (Rules 2-01(e) and 2-02(e), (f)). I have no comment on this proposal. However, I can see this making it difficult for "exploratory committees" to exist.
- **Non-Payment for Reporting Variances:** Candidates may now be ineligible to receive public funds during the pre-election period if the candidate maintains a significant reporting variance for either receipts or expenditures. Candidates will also be ineligible to receive public funds if they fail to attend both compliance and C-SMART training by a date set by the CFB prior to each payment date (Rule 3-01(d)). The proposed amendments will also codify that a candidate will be ineligible to receive public funds if they fail to report employment information or provide complete and accurate backup documentation for a significant percentage of matching claims. Without knowing the formula of the reporting variance for making public funds ineligible, this would be hard to comment on. As far as the training I absolutely, wholeheartedly agree. Considering I have participated in 5 trainings over the years, I definitely agree that this should be a stipulation. As far as providing complete and accurate backup documentation for employment information; I do not agree with this. Reporting it, yes is important, but having complete and accurate back up documentation would be difficult in many respects. Over the years, I can tell you that many, MANY people have been uncomfortable giving out their employment information and have rather put "unemployed" or "self-employed" instead. This should not be a requirement.
- **Qualified Expenditures to Defend Petition Validity:** Consistent with changes to the Act last year, this amendment codifies that expenditures to defend the validity of petitions may now be considered qualified expenditures (Rule 6-02(a)). Anything related to the election in any extent, and especially during and for the petition period should be considered a qualified expenditure.

- **Early Public Funds Payments:** There are several changes related to early public funds eligibility: a certified statement of eligibility must be submitted at least 15 business days before the scheduled early public funds payment date except for special elections and open-seat primaries (Rule 7-02(a)); these early public funds payments will not be characterized as for the primary or general election, but no candidate may receive more than the maximum public funds payable amount for a single election prior to the day after the day of the primary election (Rule 7-02(d)); and a candidate who does not appear on the ballot, or who is not opposed on the ballot, may be required to return any early public funds received (Rule 7-01(e)). *At this time, I have no comment on this proposal. While early public funds payments would be helpful, I'm not sure how this would work.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Hoping everyone is safe and healthy.

Best,

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Treasurer*

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